

# Background Knowledge



## The Cold War Begins, 1945–1960

**Opinionnaire** Before reading about the Cold War, think about your reactions to each of the following statements. The statements are intended to cause a reaction because some people may have strong feelings them. Think about what you already know about the Cold War. Place a check under “Agree” or “Disagree” for each statement. There are no right or wrong answers.

Agree		Disagree
_____	<b>1. A cold war is a very stressful time for a nation.</b>	_____
_____	<b>2. The division of Germany after World War II was necessary, even though it let part of the country remain under Soviet control.</b>	_____
_____	<b>3. Truman’s policy of containing communism was not aggressive enough.</b>	_____
_____	<b>4. The Marshall Plan, in which the United States spent billions to rebuild Europe, was justified by its success.</b>	_____
_____	<b>5. The creation of NATO was a necessary step to defend against communism.</b>	_____
_____	<b>6. Nations that are “superpowers” have a responsibility to protect other nations against threats.</b>	_____
_____	<b>7. The United States should not have become involved in the Korean War.</b>	_____
_____	<b>8. Many people in the United States acted too rashly in trying to root out communist infiltration.</b>	_____
_____	<b>9. Eisenhower’s policy of brinkmanship was essential to preventing active war between the United States and the Soviet Union.</b>	_____

# Background Knowledge *Cont.*

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Agree		Disagree
<hr/>	<b>10. The use of covert operations was justified as a way of stopping the spread of communism.</b>	<hr/>
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### Activating Background Knowledge

Write several sentences about what you know about the beginning of the conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, and what life was like during the Cold War.

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